

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-8, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Please amend Claims 9 and 21, as follows.

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A pair of tongs comprising: ~~the implement of claim 1~~
a first spoon-shaped implement comprising:
a bowl having an upper surface that is concave, an undersurface that is convex,
and a leading edge; and
a handle that is attached to the bowl at a location substantially opposite the
bowl's leading edge.
wherein the bowl has a plurality of grating holes through it that present a
rubbing zone that is sufficiently rough that a gratable foodstuff can be reduced to small particles
by rubbing it on the zone, and
wherein the first spoon-shaped implement is pivotably attached to a second
spoon-shaped implement comprised of a second bowl having a concave uppersurface and a
convex undersurface and a second handle that is attached to said second bowl, so that the two
bowl uppersurfaces face each other and the two handles are movable, relative to one another,
between (a) an open position, in which the two bowls are spaced apart, and (b) a closed position,
in which the two bowls are touching or proximate to each other.

10. (Original) The tongs of claim 9, wherein the second bowl also has a plurality of grating holes through it that present a rubbing zone that is sufficiently rough that a gratable foodstuff can be reduced to small particles by rubbing it on the zone.

11. (Original) The tongs of claim 10, wherein the tongs also comprise a spring member that urges the handles toward the open position.

12. (Original) The tongs of claim 11, wherein
the two, spoon-shaped implements are pivotably attached to each other at the ends of their handles and
the two handles curve away from each other in a region adjacent the point where they are attached, so as to form a round gripping protrusion in that region.

13. (Original) The tongs of claim 12, wherein
the two spoon-shaped implements are attached to each other by a pivot pin and
the spring member is a coil spring mounted inside the gripping protrusion.

14. (Original) The tongs of claim 13, further comprising
a pair of opposed arms pivotably mounted on said pivot pin in between the two handles, each arm having
a pin member that protrudes toward the other arm's pin member, and wherein

the coil spring is mounted on said pin members, so as to cause said arms to press outwardly against said handles.

15. (Original) The tongs of claim 10, wherein the convex undersurface of the bowl of the first spoon-shaped implement generally defines a curvilinear plane and, as regards at least some of the grating holes, the hole's opening on the convex undersurface of the bowl has a scooping edge that arches above that plane and substantially faces toward the handle.

16. (Original) The tongs of claim 15, wherein
the second bowl also has an upper, food-holding surface that is concave, an undersurface that is convex, and a leading edge and
the convex undersurface of the second bowl generally defines a curvilinear plane and, as regards at least some of the grating holes, the hole's opening on the convex undersurface of the bowl has a scooping edge that arches above that plane and substantially toward the handle.

17. (Original) The tongs of claim 16, wherein the tongs also comprise a spring member that urges the handles toward the open position.

18. (Original) The tongs of claim 17, wherein
the two, spoon-shaped implements are pivotably attached to each other at the ends of their handles and

the two handles curve away from each other in a region adjacent the point where they are attached, so as to form a round gripping protrusion in that region.

19. (Original) The tongs of claim 18, wherein

the two spoon-shaped implements are attached to each other by a pivot pin and the spring member is a coil spring mounted inside the gripping protrusion.

20. (Original) The tongs of claim 19, further comprising

a pair of opposed arms pivotably mounted on said pivot pin in between the two handles, each arm having
a pin member that protrudes toward the other arm's pin member, and wherein
the coil spring is mounted on said pin members, so as to cause said arms to
press outwardly against said handles.

21. (Original) The tongs of claim 9, wherein the convex undersurface of the bowl of the first spoon-shaped implement generally defines a curvilinear plane and, as regards at least some of the grating holes, the hole's opening on the convex undersurface of the bowl has a scooping edge that arches above that plane and substantially faces away from the bowl's leading edge.

22. (Original) The tongs of claim 10, wherein a majority of the grating holes through the first bowl are larger than the majority of the holes through the second bowl.

23. (Original) The tongs of claim 22, wherein a majority of the grating holes through the first bowl have a scooping edge that spans a distance of about 2 to 3.5 millimeters and

a majority of the grating holes in the second bowl have a scooping edge that spans a distance of about 3.5 to 5 millimeters.

24. (Original) The tongs of claim 23, further comprising means for locking the handles in the closed position.

25. (Original) The tongs of claim 9, further comprising means for locking the handles in the closed position.

26. (Original) The tongs of claim 9, wherein the pivotal attachment of the tongs is configured to have substantially no pinch points.

27. (Original) The tongs of claim 9, wherein the tongs are pivotably attached with joints that have a substantially constant profile as the tongs are moved between the open and closed positions, to avoid pinch points.